

THE MIGRATION OF A PIERID BUTTERFLY IN TEXAS.

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During a trip through southern Texas, while driving northward up the Nueces River valley, Mrs. Sweetman and I observed a flight of butterflies about five miles south of Montell and twenty-five miles north of Uvalde. The species has been identified as *Kricogonia lyside* (Godart) by Dr. Alexander B. Klots of The College of the City of New York. Two specimens, both females, have been deposited in the museum collection of Massachusetts State College at Amherst.

The flight was observed about 5:15 on the evening of May 30, 1939. The sky was partially overcast, with light air movement at the time. It seemed quite warm, but no facilities for measuring the temperature were available. Therefore weather data were secured from Mr. H. E. Carper of Uvalde and Mr. A. G. Beecroft of Montell, United States Weather Bureau cooperative observers, and Mr. D. C. Parman of the United States Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine stationed in Uvalde. The data from Uvalde were most complete and are partially shown below:

Date	Temperature °F.				Relative humidity		
	Max.	Min.	5:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M.	Max.	Min.	5:00 P.M.
May 28	99	71	..	89
May 29	95	65	92	..	95	32	48
May 30	93	65	93	..	97	33	62
May 31	93	64	..	77

The relative humidity was rising at the time the migration was observed. The sky was partly cloudy to cloudy toward evening from May 28 to 31. Local showers were recorded for the county from May 28 to 31 and showers occurred in the morning at Montell on May 29 and at Uvalde in the morning hours on May 29 to 31. The barometric pressure was slowly falling from May 29 to 31. A light to moderate southeast wind was recorded for the region on these dates.

The migration was toward the southeast, with little wind at the time of observation. The pressure was falling, relative humidity

was rising and relatively high, and the temperature was high. The migrants were travelling in a steady movement, being sufficiently numerous so that from one to twenty would be near one at any time. Most of the specimens were flying at a height of 3 to 10 feet above the ground. We collected specimens by standing and netting individuals that passed by. The flight was moving at almost right angles to the highway and was evident for a distance of 3 to 4 miles while driving.

The genus *Kricogonia*, according to Talbot (1935) contains one species only, *castalia*, but several forms including *lyside* are recognized. It is not certain that the North American *lyside* is conspecific with *castalia*. It is a neotropical species, being found in the United States in southern Florida and Texas and occasionally further north.

Williams (1930, 1939) cites two previous records of migration flights of *Kricogonia*. These were in Jamaica and Haiti in 1891 and 1926. Apparently this is the first flight to be recorded for the North American continent proper.

LITERATURE CITED.

- Talbot, G. 1935. *Lepidopterorum Catalogus*, Pars. 66: 544-6, 645.
- Williams, C. B. 1930. Migration of butterflies. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh. 473 pp. (Reference on page 133.)
1939. Some records of butterfly migration in America. *Pro. Royal Ent. Soc. London*, Series A, 14: 139-44.

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